UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date   :   Week ended 11 November 1971

Authorization :   Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday   5 November   System failure, offline 1100-1125, 1300-1320.

Monday   8 November   Disk pack unavailable, cleared users from system, reloaded monitor, system offline 1230-1245
Testing experimental Batch, 1420-1510.

Thursday   11 November   Testing experimental Batch, 1335-1517.

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900
Operations   0930-2330

1.2 GE-225 System

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900, 2000-2130
Operations   0900-2000, 2130-2400

2. CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN

The Computer Centre will shut down on Christmas Eve and remain closed during the intervening days between Christmas and New Year. No further work will be processed after 11.30 p.m. on Thursday 23 December. However, the Centre will remain open until 1 p.m. on Friday 24 December to allow staff to finalize end-of-year accounting and users to collect any work or card punching. The Centre will re-open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday 4 January 1972.

3. PDP-10 FORTRAN ERROR

An error has been detected in the routine used to print asterisks when an output field width is too small. Instead of incrementing the count of errors it adds one to a location which is usually a user program instruction. The effects are unpredictable and usually not noticed. Until this is fixed any program which gives the 'OUTPUT FIELD WIDTH OVERFLOW' message must be suspect. The use of G type format specification is recommended to avoid this situation.

4. OPERATION ON WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

On Wednesday 10 November some errors were reported, mainly in connection with FORTRAN programs. One particular reported error did not occur when tested at a later date, although it was repeatable when tested on the 10th. It is not possible to assign a particular cause to this problem, though a possible cause would be file damage to the shared version of the FORTRAN Operating system and possibly when some other files. We apologize for any inconvenience caused to clients who might have experienced errors in their programs on this particular day.

5. LINE PRINTER SYMBIONT

A new version of the line printer symbiont program will be implemented on Monday 15 November. Most of the changes are not apparent to the user except for the implementation of the argument ALL. A user can now specify ALL as either the name, processor program name or both, in order to list a group of files with the one command.

example

        LIST ALL/F4, PROGR/ALL

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